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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT  
THURSDAY, JULY 17, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER  
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION

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HEADLINES

MASS APPEALS  
U.S.: Suleymaniye raid a regrettable, unfortunate  
incident - Hurriyet  
Gul: Rumsfeld letter voices respect for Turkey's  
military - Aksam  
Gul to U.S. next week - Milliyet  
U.S. troops in Iraq furious at Bush, Rumsfeld - Vatan  
Chaos prevails in Iraq - Sabah  
Consumers boycott U.S. goods - Hurriyet  
Denktas invites Greeks to Varosha - Turkiye

OPINION MAKERS  
U.S. voices regret over Suleymaniye raid - Radikal  
Iraq swamp pulling Washington down - Radikal  
Wexler slams Rumsfeld over Suleymaniye arrests - Yeni  
Safak  
A PKK member in Iraqi interim council - Zaman  
Tehran admits Canadian reporter beaten to death -  
Cumhuriyet

BRIEFING

Rumsfeld letter to Erdogan: In a letter on behalf of President Bush to Prime Minister Erdogan, Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld emphasized the significance of U.S.-Turkish friendship and voiced regret about the Suleymaniye detentions, most dailies report. However, some papers interpret the letter as concrete evidence that the detentions were carried out with the approval of Washington. The Rumsfeld letter says that the Turkish soldiers were detained for arming the Turkomen, a clear violation of agreements between the U.S. and Turkey. Sources close to the ruling AKP are inclined to regard the letter as a message voicing regret over the Suleymaniye arrests, an 'isolated incident.' All papers agree that the letter fell outside of conventional diplomatic practice, and stress that it should have been signed either by the President or Vice President.

Washington approves fact-finding commission statement: Washington approved a statement by the joint fact-finding commission probing the detention of Turkish troops in Suleymaniye. The U.S. approval comes 24 hours after TGS released the Turkish version of the statement. Papers claim that the U.S. had been upset by the TGS decision to release the statement without official confirmation from Washington. U.S. officials said the delay was caused by bureaucratic formalities.

Pro-PKK figure in Iraqi governing council: Dr. Mahmud Osman, a member of the Iraqi governing council formed by the U.S., is closely linked to the PKK, "Aksam" reports. The paper deems the appointment 'surprising,' since the PKK/KADEK is in the U.S. list of terrorist organizations. The U.S. wanted to silence criticism of the PKK/KADEK, and to give a message that the new administration will include representatives of all Kurds in Iraq, "Aksam" speculates. Foreign Minister Gul said Turkey is investigating Osman's alleged ties with the PKK, and noted that Ankara would not recognize a terrorist in the Iraqi administration.

Palestinian FM in Ankara: Visiting Palestinian Foreign Minister Shaath asked for Ankara's support in convincing Israel to move forward in the Middle East peace process. After meeting with Shaath on Wednesday, Foreign Minister Gul said that the reform process in Palestine was being discussed, and that Turkey would help Palestine to draft a constitution. Gul also noted that Ankara has extended an invitation for an official visit by Palestinian Prime Minister Abbas.

Denktas invites Greek Cypriots to Varosha: Turkish Cypriot leader Denktas said that if the Greek Cypriot government rejects his offer of jointly opening Varosha to tourism, the Greek Cypriots would be allowed to settle in Varosha. Denktas reportedly said the deserted town of Varosha 'cannot remain closed forever.'

Decline in consumption of U.S. goods: Papers report on a survey carried out by Roper ASW, which shows a 13 percent decline in consumption of U.S.-made goods in Turkey since 1999. Roper ASW claimed that the Iraq crisis has caused consumers worldwide to boycott American culture and consumer products.

#### EDITORIAL OPINION: Iraq

"Can't we be more specific?"  
Sami Kohen stated in mass appeal Milliyet (7/17): "Ankara is suffering because of its failure to present a clearly defined policy for Northern Iraq. This issue has not been properly discussed to this point, but there is an urgent need for an open discussion and to work toward new strategies based on the facts in the region. Northern Iraq has turned into an issue that could determine the fate of Turkish-American relations. Both Turkey and the US need to fine-tune their policies on Iraq if there is a common desire to enhance bilateral ties."

"Iraq and Turkey"  
Cengiz Candar commented in DB Tercuman (7/17): "Turkey has experienced a defeat in Iraq in all military, political and diplomatic senses. Turkey must completely change its approach to Iraq, particularly its 'northern Iraq mentality,' as quickly and thoroughly as possible. Otherwise, we can expect new challenges with the US, new defeats for Ankara, and more problems for the Turkoman community."

"Agreeing to disagree"  
Ilnur Cevik is back from the region and observed in the English language Turkish Daily News (7/17): "The Americans have decided not to pursue the issue any further for the sake of Turkish-American ties, but the dispute is still there. Now Turkish leaders have to sit down and decide what we want to do in northern Iraq and how. This means the civilian leadership should be more involved in the decision-making process, and should not leave everything to the military."

PEARSON